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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Dr. Josip Hrnjcevic

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PLACE
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1. Dr. Josip Hrnjcevic (Hrnjtchevitch) was born on 10 February 1901 at Obrovnici, District of Bjelovar, Croatia. He graduated from the Law School in Zagreb in 1927 where he acquired his Doctorate of Law. He has been a government employee ever since. At the outbreak of war, he was a District Court Judge at Varazdin.
2. A Communist from his youth, Hrnjcevic became a member of the Communist Party in 1933, and worked for the Party illegally. After the proclamation of the Independent State of Croatia, he remained at his job using it as a cover for his Party work. He joined the Partisan detachments on 3 January 1942 on Party orders and at first functioned as a deputy to the Political Commissar, an assignment by which the Party checked devotion in the field and in practice. He later obtained the grade of officer with the Staff at Srem, again proved his devotion and was designated a political chief of the 3rd Detachment of Srem.
3. In 1944 he was a Lieutenant Colonel and, a little later, was promoted to Colonel of the Yugoslav Army. In September 1945 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of the Yugoslav Republic. In this capacity he gained the confidence of the Communist Party and the Government.
4. His nomination for the position of Attorney General of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia was announced by Mosa Pijade and confirmation of his appointment by the Assembly was made in February 1946. He has been Attorney General since then without interruption. His functions include control over the proper execution of the laws on the part of Ministries and sub-organs by official personalities and all other citizens, the special duty of insuring that Five Year Plan orders are carried out, and that a watch be kept on persons involved in sabotage activity. The latter is the fight against the so-called "anti-National" elements. In a speech delivered during a budget discussion in December 1948, Hrnjcevic stated that "the surveillance of these elements must be increased. The State organs and the people's masses are obliged to detect and punish them mercilessly. The truncheons of the Attorney General and the other organs must be pointed in that direction". A candidate for the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, Hrnjcevic is devoted to Tito.

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